

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

#31A  
DJA  
4-13-02

In re Patent Application of

BATES et al

Atty. Ref.: 608-334

Serial No. Unassigned

Group:

Filed: March 7, 2002

Examiner:

For: COATED PRODUCTS AND USE THEREOF IN OIL FIELDS

\* \* \* \* \*

March 7, 2002

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Please cancel all of the claims in this application, namely Claims 1-41, and replace by the following new claims:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

A1  
--42. (New) A process for the manufacture of particles of an oil field production chemical, wherein a solid particulate oil field production chemical is comminuted in the presence of a dispersion of a dispersing agent in an inert oil to cause the dispersing agent to adhere to at least part of the surface of the particle to form a coating on said particle, the weight of coating to said particles being 0.1-10%.